

Serial No. 10/044,918
Amendment dated December 15, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 16, 2003

Docket No. P-0331

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the Abstract, specification, and drawings are amended. The Abstract and specification have been amended for clarification purposes. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the drawings and the original claims. Allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-12 are allowed.

The Office Action objects to the drawings due to informalities. Appropriate lead lines have been added to Figure 4. Further, the letters previously shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4 to denote sectional lines have been replaced with Roman numerals, as requested by the Examiner. Corresponding amendments have been made in the specification where these sectional views are referenced. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Office Action objects to the disclosure due to an informality. The amendment made to page 1, line 22 of the disclosure is responsive to the Examiner's comments, and thus it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

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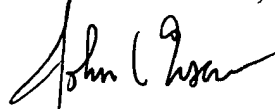
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, Carol L. Druzbeck, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:

Substitute Abstract
Replacement Drawings

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Date: December 15, 2003

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610